

W1 --A counterflow cascade washer 1, which is arranged downstream of a treatment means 2, e.g., means for pickling a continuous metal strip 4 displaceable in a direction shown with arrow 3, includes a forewasher unit 5 and a plurality of washer units following the forewasher unit 5, namely, n , $n+1$, $n+2$, $n+3$. Fresh water is fed into the last washer unit or the washer unit $n+3$ via a conduit 6 from a fresh water units or forewasher unit 5, and washer units n , $n+1$, $n+2$, and $n+3$ are separated from each other by gates 7 (please see also Fig. 2). Each of the washer units n , $n+1$, $n+2$, $n+3$ is associated with a respective rinsing water circuit I-IV through which rinsing water is fed to respective washer units. The rinsing water is applied to the strip 4 through the nozzle arrangements 9 each including upper and lower blast pipes arranged above and below the running strip 4. Maintaining of the cascade flow in the counterflow direction, which is shown in Fig. 2 with arrows 8, is effected by branching of a bypass stream from the respective rinsing water circuits I-IV and not by overflow over the gates 7. To this end, a separate bypass conduit 10 is integrated in each of the rinsing water circuit I through IV. Through a respective bypass conduit 10, a portion of the water stream is branch and is fed from a respective washer unit to an end of a washer unit which is located upstream of the feeding washer unit in the displacement direction 3 of the strip 4, e.g., a bypass stream portion is fed from the washer unit $n+1$ to the washer unit n . At the end of each bypass conduit 10, there is provided a nozzle arrangement 11 which